



**1990-91 ANNUAL REPORT
Eastern Slopes Region
Integrated Resource Plans**

INCLUDES:

Brazeau-Pembina Sub-Regional Integrated Resource Plan

Ghost River Sub-Regional Integrated Resource Plan

Kananaskis Country Sub-Regional Integrated Resource Plan

Nordegg-Red Deer River Sub-Regional Integrated Resource Plan

Rocky-North Saskatchewan Sub-Regional Integrated Resource Plan

**EASTERN SLOPES REGION
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
JULY 1991**

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1990-91 ANNUAL REPORT - EASTERN SLOPES REGION
INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLANS

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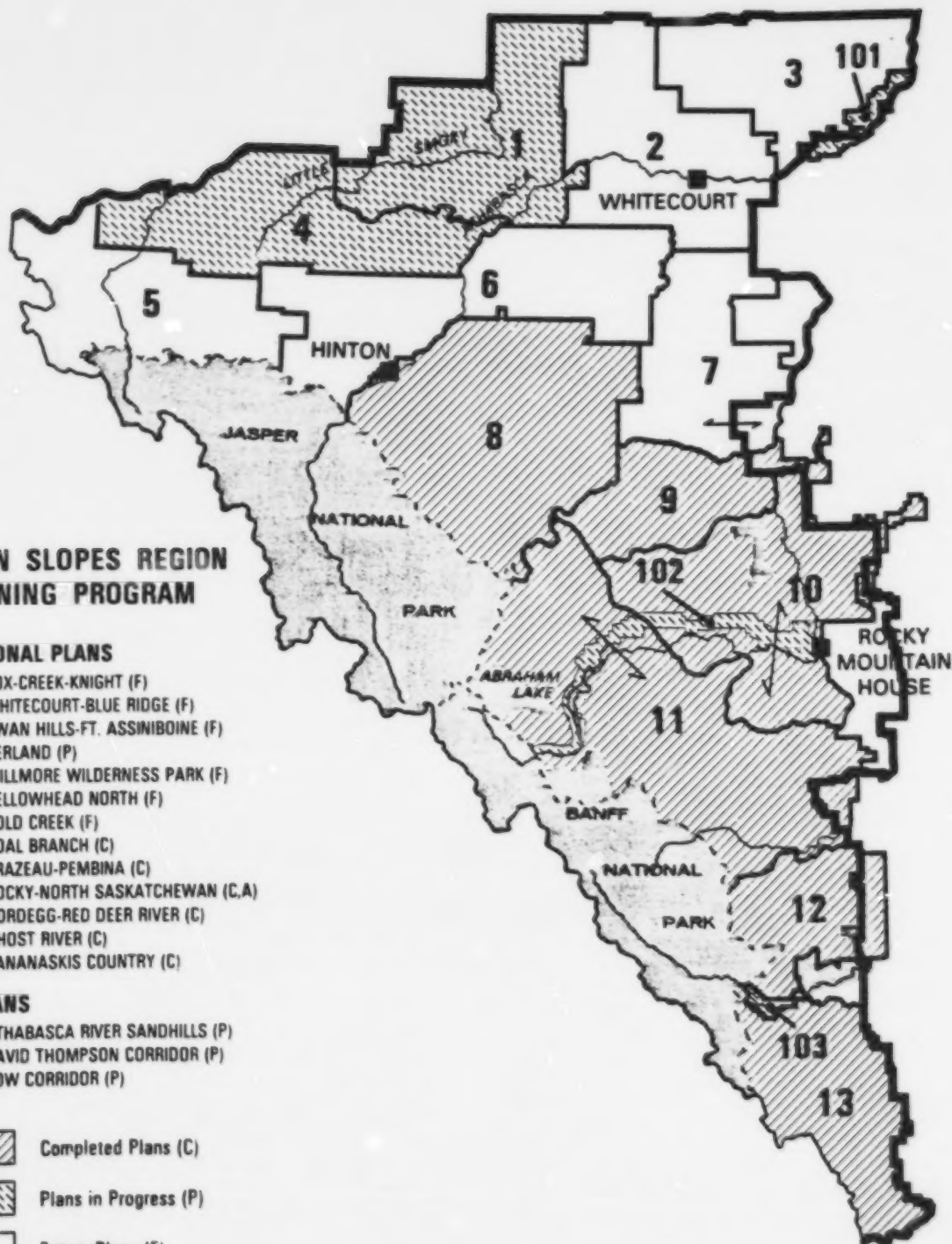
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JULY 91



1.0 INTRODUCTION

This annual report summarizes progress on the implementation of completed Integrated Resource Plans (IRPs), located within the Eastern Slopes Region, for the period between April 1990 and March 1991.

2.0 EASTERN SLOPES REGION - AN OVERVIEW

Eastern Slopes Region, one of five such regions designated by Forestry, Lands and Wildlife in the province of Alberta, is an area of approximately 91 292 square kilometres along the eastern slopes of Alberta's Rocky Mountains. This area contains the Public Lands Division Eastern Slopes Region, the Fish and Wildlife Division Eastern Slopes Region and four Alberta Forest Service Forests (Bow/Crow Forest, Edson Forest, Rocky/Clearwater Forest, Whitecourt Forest).

Since 1977, resource management in this area has been guided by the Policy for Resource Management of the Eastern Slopes (revised 1984), and subsequently by revisions of this policy through the development and implementation of sub-regional and local integrated resource plans.

3.0 EASTERN SLOPES REGIONAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (RRMC)

The Eastern Slopes Regional Resource Management Committee (RRMC) was formed in 1981. Its members are regional directors and forest superintendents from Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife, as well as senior managers from other departments such as Alberta Tourism, Alberta Recreation and Parks, Alberta Energy, Alberta Environment, Alberta Culture and Multiculturalism and the Energy Resources Conservation Board.

The RRMC meets every month to discuss the management and administration of natural resources on lands in the Eastern Slopes Region, of which the implementation of the integrated resource plans plays a key part. The objectives of this committee are to provide a departmental, interdepartmental and public forum for the communication, coordination and resolution of natural resource issues at the policy, program and operational level.

4.0 HIGHLIGHT REPORT OF ACTIVITIES IN THE INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLANNING AREAS

4.1 Brazeau-Pembina Sub-Regional Integrated Resource Plan (Approved April 8, 1986)

1990/91 Activities:

Timber:

Draft forest management agreement (FMA) management plan submitted by Weyerhaeuser was reviewed. Company was advised of deficiencies. Second draft is forthcoming.

Wildlife:

Reburning was completed on 120 ha of brush flats along the Brazeau River.

The monitoring program conducted on Brazeau Flats burns to determine vegetative response and wildlife use is continuing in cooperation with the Hinton Forest Technology School, AFS, and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

The lynx quota was increased from one to two per trapper in the area that included the Brazeau/Pembina IRP.

The river otter transplant did not occur because the source population was difficult to locate during the fall of 1990.

Although one peregrine falcon was sighted in the Brazeau Reservoir area, no active nests were located.

Fisheries:

Fish and Wildlife input was provided on landuse referrals involving water courses. Major activities included several pipeline crossings of streams, road construction projects and examination of increasing emergency spillway capacity at the Brazeau Reservoir.

Recreation:

Elk River Recreation Area development plan has been completed and a copy was forwarded to Alberta Transportation and Utilities for review to determine if a joint agreement will be entered into with the Alberta Forest Service.

Regular maintenance and upkeep have been carried out on all existing recreation areas. All areas have now been upgraded except Elk River.

Forage Resource:

Range management plans were completed for GRL 40286 and GRL 34501.

Meetings with lessees are to be held and completed plans implemented before June 1, 1991.

One remaining lease is to have management plan drafted in 1991/92 and be implemented in 1993.

Agricultural Resource/Land Use Administration:

The Brazeau/Pembina Agricultural Capability Study identified eight quarter sections of land in Sec. 34 and 35, Twp. 47, Rge. 8, W5M as capable of supporting annual crop production. All eight quarters will be withdrawn from the Green Area and placed in the White Area. Five quarters accessible by M.D. 77 roads, will be made available for sale as demand dictates, through established procedures.

Anticipated Activities (1991/92) Brazeau/Pembina Sub-Regional IRP:

Watershed:

Obtain better information about effects of land use and management activities on water quality and quantity in RMA B.

Timber:

Salvage merchantable timber and clear unmerchantable timber on anticipated flood area if level of Brazeau Reservoir is raised (RMA C).

Wildlife:

Reburning of remaining brush flats along the Brazeau River will be undertaken.

Monitoring program on controlled burn sites (Brazeau Flats) will be continued.

Installation of 10 additional osprey nesting platforms is planned for the Brazeau Reservoir during the summer of 1991.

Initiate a more conservative harvest strategy for moose in the Brazeau/Pembina area in order to increase the moose population. (The intent is to harvest bull moose only on a draw basis during the rut in late September to mid-October to reduce the number taken. This will be followed by an open season later on when bull moose are less vulnerable.)

Since the Brazeau Reservoir is included in Albertas Wildlife Viewing Guide, provide interpretive and directional signage at the Brazeau Reservoir to increase opportunities for non-consumptive use of wildlife.

Fisheries:

The reclaimed Brazeau Borrow Pits will be stocked with 1500 rainbow trout.

Forage Resource:

Increase carrying capacity of suitable grazing dispositions through various government assistance programs as well as the lessee's own means. The increase is contingent upon acceptance of an approved range management plan (RMA A).

Agricultural Resource/Land Use Administration:

Public Lands Division will develop an implementation plan to remove land from the Green Area. This plan will identify any timber harvesting required prior to sale, plus designate uses on lands that will not be sold. This plan will be done in conjunction with Alberta Forest Service and the Fish and Wildlife Division.

Plan Assessment:

The Brazeau-Pembina Sub-Regional IRP will undergo its five-year assessment by the Eastern Slopes Regional Resource Management Committee and the Resource Planning Branch.

4.2 Ghost River Sub-Regional Integrated Resource Plan (Approved June 7, 1988)

1990/91 Activities:

Watershed:

The five-year draft plan was completed and is waiting for priority selections and direction for plan implementation.

New and existing dispositions were monitored. Two reclamation projects were undertaken.

Wildlife:

Patrols by enforcement staff of the Harold Creek Road Sanctuary indicate:

- a good portion of licensed and Native hunters are respecting the sanctuary; and
- moose are the most observable species during the early morning hours, but the numbers observed have not yet increased significantly. They are expected to rise over the next several years. Meetings were held with Native Band Councils to explain intent of the sanctuary and request cooperation in observing the sanctuary status.

Signs were put in place at the sanctuary entrances.

An aerial search of the Mount Laurie/Devil's Gap area confirmed three active prairie falcon eyries, but no peregrine eyries. The site occupied by peregrines in 1989 was not occupied in 1990. There are still occasional reports of peregrine sightings in the area.

Calgary Fish and Game Association conducted projects to enhance moose browse production. Over 120 ha of willow flats were treated by gyromowing.

Planning was completed for 12 prescribed burn sites encompassing 135 ha. These burns will be conducted in cooperation with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

Fisheries:

Streambank fencing work continued on Fallen Timber Creek.

Recreation:

Re-alignment of the trail back from Margaret Lake was initiated to restrict vehicle access. There will, however, be access to the lake, although access to the lake and shoreline is currently restricted.

Restoration work on Margaret Lake trail continued but was not completed.

Reconstruction of Harold Creek motorcycle trail continued but was not completed.

Approval was given for a commercial trail riding permit for a Class II operation in the South Ghost area.

Access:

Use levels of motorized recreational access were monitored. Castle River Access Management Plan (pilot project) has not been completed.

Public access onto grazing dispositions in the Water Valley RMA has been discussed with lessees during their periodic and renewal evaluations.

Timber:

Eighteen resource management operational plans were completed for review with grazing lessees.

Aerial fertilization was carried out on 163 ha in the Burnt Timber burn.

Devil's Head allotment burn was completed. Assessment of results indicate that approximately 20 percent to 30 percent of the target species (bog birch) was eradicated.

Prescribed burn plan for the Aura Cache grazing allotment completed.

Monitoring of dwarf mistletoe infestation continued.

Green area boundary changes have not yet been completed. "No-sale" reservations have not been placed on the lands in the Water Valley RMA.

Range Management:

Boundary location of the Devil's Head allotment was assessed and is to remain in the current location. Forage productivity to be supplemented through range improvement.

Devil's Head allotment range management plan completed and undergoing departmental review.

Inventory and assessment completed of free-roaming horses and related forage use.

Prescribed burn completed on the Devil's Head allotment to control brush encroachment.

Forage data was collected on grazing dispositions and Devil's Head allotment.

Resource management operational plan format being incorporated in revisions of range management plans.

Field evaluations required to complete the Resource Management Operational Plans for the Water Valley RMA have been completed. Draft plans have been completed for some of the grazing dispositions in the area.

Anticipated Activities (1991/92) Ghost River Sub-Regional IRP

Wildlife:

Continue to monitor the Harold Creek Road sanctuary and assess its use and effectiveness.

Continue to search for nesting peregrines with assistance of local bird watchers.

Conduct prescribed burns as weather permits.

Recreation:

Provide information services to the public through the information kiosk at the Ghost Ranger Station.

Continue to increase public contact in the backcountry.

Initiate a campground host program at North Ghost, Waiparous and possibly Fallen Timber forest recreation areas.

Establish two visitor/interpretive sites at the old Eau Claire Flood Dams to illustrate the history of the area and forest management practices.

Complete restoration on Margaret Lake trail.

Undertake the reconstruction/maintenance of Harold Creek motorcycle trail.

Prepare development plans for Black Rock Hiking Trail, Upper Flood Dam and Lower Flood Dam.

Monitor and evaluate random camping sites. Most of the planning area is very heavily used by random campers. Some of the areas should be closed to public use to allow for site rehabilitation; however, at this point no budget has been identified for this work.

Access:

Monitor use levels and trends with respect to motorized recreational access. An access management plan (AMP) is proposed for development pending completion of the pilot AMP being undertaken in the Castle River subregion.

Public access onto grazing dispositions in the Water Valley RMA will be encouraged through the Use Respect Program.

Timber:

Review resource management operational plans with grazing lessees.

Continue thinning and cleaning of overstocked cut units as Public Lands Development Program funds become available.

Assess the potential for a re-burn of the Devil's Head allotment in the spring of 1992.

Review potential for the prescribed burn in the Aura Cache allotment for the spring of 1992.

Continue monitoring dwarf mistletoe infestation (insect and disease monitoring program).

The Green Area boundary change will be completed. No-sale reservations will be placed on the lands in the Water Valley RMA.

Range Management:

Complete review and initiate Devil's Head allotment range management plan.

Continue inventory of free-roaming horses and assess forage use.

Assess range management plans within Ghost River IRP area.

Continue assessment of prescribed burn on Devil's Head allotment (see timber).

Continue data collection of forage productivity of allotments and grazing dispositions.

Proceed with the resource management operational plans.

4.3 Kananaskis Country Sub-Regional Integrated Resource Plan (Approved March 4, 1986)

1990/91 Activities:

Ecological, Natural and Cultural Resources:

A final 1:50 000 vegetation map of Peter Lougheed Provincial Park, companion report and an annotated species checklist have been distributed.

Resource plans for Bow Valley Provincial Park and Peter Lougheed Provincial Park have been completed and action priorities are being determined.

Fifty-two ponds were surveyed in Peter Lougheed Provincial Park. Full aquatic samples were taken from five ponds and partial chemistry samples were taken from the remainder. Amphibians were found to be breeding in almost half the ponds.

Ecological Reserves Advisory Committee recommended formal designation of Plateau Mountain Ecological Reserve to the Minister.

Restricted, noxious, nuisance and rangeland weeds were controlled within Kananaskis Country.

Fisheries:

Twenty-nine bull trout redds were located and mapped on upper Smith-Dorrien Creek in September.

The 1990 creek survey revealed that Bear Pond received very heavy fishing pressure and provided a high catch rate (2.6 fish/angler hour). Most of the Arctic grayling caught were smaller than the 30 cm minimum size limit.

Test netting on Barrier Lake in August 1990 yielded a catch consisting of 52 percent suckers, 33 percent mountain whitefish and 15 percent brown trout. By comparison, brown trout comprised 10 percent of the sample in 1977 and 30 percent in 1982-83.

Inspections were conducted of all water control structures.

The Bear Pond outlet repair work was conducted in cooperation with Alberta Environment, Recreation and Parks, Alberta Forest Service, Alberta Transportation and Utilities and Improvement District #8.

Recommendations designed to establish special fisheries at Chester, Rawson, Rummel and Watridge lakes were submitted to Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife in 1990, but were not included in the 1991 sportfishing guide.

Fish sampling and creel surveys conducted on Rawson Lake in 1990 indicated that natural reproduction by cutthroat trout was occurring. However, the level of reproduction appears to be inadequate to maintain the population under the current management program.

The creel survey report, summarizing data from 21 high mountain lakes (years 1982 to 1989) was completed. The average catch rate was 1.6 fish/angler hour, and the mean length of fish caught was 24 cm.

Creel survey data collection from high mountain lakes was continued.

In September 1990, 200 cutthroat trout were transferred from Picklejar Lake #2 to Smuts Lakes. Assistance for the project was provided by the Calgary Hook and Hackle Club.

No stocking occurred due to lack of hatchery stock as a result of previous disease problems at the hatchery.

Interpretation and Environmental Education:

Operation and maintenance of Jumpingpound Demonstration Forest continued. Resource kits were developed for schools as a teaching aid.

Two interactive video displays were completed to help visitors develop a better understanding of the area, its problems and visitors' responsibility to the land.

Range Resources:

Plans for Elbow, McLean and Fish creeks are under review by grazing permittees. Elbow Horse Pasture plan was completed.

Monitoring and assessments of range conditions and management practises were completed.

The monitoring program of forage production and wildlife/cattle interaction in the Highwood Area was initiated and first year's data collected.

The monitoring program on Ware Creek was initiated and undertaken by Junior Forest Wardens to assess possible off-stream remedial work.

Monitoring of forage production ongoing in Jumpingpound and Deep Creek allotments.

Range management plans have been completed and are now being implemented for Highwood, Cataract Creek, Willow Creek, South Sheep, North Sheep, South Sullivan and Sullivan Flat allotments.

Maintenance is ongoing in the South Sheep and Willow Creek grazing allotments, including 566 ac. (229 ha) disced and 507 ac. (205 ha) seeded.

Recreation and Tourism:

Monitoring, site work and efforts to provide information to visitors continued at designated backcountry campsites and selected random campsites.

Conducted 174 foot, motorized and mounted patrols in the Highwood, Willow Creek and Sheep River drainages, resulting in 3 858 public contacts.

The following developments were reviewed:

- 18-hole golf course proposal in the Evans-Thomas Creek area;
- Tim Horton's children's camp;
- Heli-skiing and tour boat operation at Spray Lakes (Stage III - CTRL Process)
- Spa development and guest house in the South Spray Lakes area (approved February 1990); and

Completed Phase I expansion of Galatea Trailhead.

Construction of new spur trail for snowmobiles commenced in Cataract OHV Zone. Improvements to West Bragg trails were also completed. Further upgrading is planned for 1991.

Assessment of OHV trails at Sibbald continued and will be ongoing in 1991-92 in conjunction with timber harvesting operations.

Elbow River Launch day use site is 80 percent completed (RMA C). Bear Pond Dam repair project is 90 percent complete.

Research:

Kananaskis Country computer bibliography was updated to 22 000 records. Searches were made for information for 15 researchers.

Research and collection permits were issued for nine projects.

Timber:

Pheromone baits were installed and monitored. No mountain pine beetle attacks were observed.

Wildlife:

Upper portion of Mist Creek prescribed burn was completed as planned.

A number of potential future prescribed burn sites were identified and ground truthed.

Monitoring of Highwood elk numbers was undertaken.

Data collection on sheep continued. Several articles on the work were published in the Journal of Wildlife Diseases.

Elk movement studies are continuing on elk that were collared in the Bow Corridor.

Evaluation of the Highwood Road Corridor Sanctuary was undertaken.

Several potential new wildlife viewing sites have been identified and a number of improvements at existing sites have been recommended.

Anticipated Activities (1991/92) Kananaskis Country Sub-Regional IRP

Ecological, Natural and Cultural Resources:

Complete classification and distribution lists of wetlands in Peter Lougheed Provincial Park (PLPP).

Complete analysis and report results of amphibian survey.

Monitor radio-collared wolves in PLPP and surrounding area.

Review of bear attractions in campgrounds in Kananaskis east district.

Plateau Mountain is scheduled for Ecological Reserve Designation by Order In Council in 1991-92.

Development of a research plan for Plateau Mountain Ice Cave to be discussed.

Continue to manage weed problems within Kananaskis Country.

Fisheries:

Evaluate brook trout populations in selected beaver ponds stocked in 1988.

Complete the report on the 1987 creel survey on Allen Bill Pond.

Complete a report on evaluation of the Spray Lakes stocking program.

Conduct a creel survey on Bear Pond and Big Iron Lake.

Complete a report on nutrient enrichment for Elbow Lake.

Undertake a fish sampling program on Canyon Creek to evaluate validity of size limit regulations and provide baseline data.

Continue annual inspections and maintenance of fish pond water control structures.

Undertake new fisheries habitat enhancement projects as identified in the planning area.

Continue collecting creel survey data on high mountain lakes.

Resume the stocking program for various lakes and beaver ponds as fish availability from the hatcheries increases.

Interpretation and Environmental Education:

Maintain or increase level of visitor services at the Colonel's Cabin Forest Management Interpretive Trail as funding permits.

Provide opportunities for school use of Kananaskis Forest Experimental Station as funding permits.

Continue operation and maintenance of the Jumpingpound Demonstration Forest. Provide resource kits which have been developed for school teachers.

Continue services dealing with interpretation, environmental education and information/orientation which are delivered by provincial park's staff.

Range Resources:

Complete/finalize range management plans for Elbow, McLean and Fish creeks.

Continue the range monitoring program in the Highwood area.

Assist Junior Forest Wardens with their livestock management assessment and coordinate with other agencies.

Continue monitoring forage production in the Jumpingpound and Deep Creek allotments.

Monitor completed range management plans to determine if expected results are being achieved.

Assess capability of range to maintain specified grazing levels.

Inventory free-roaming horses and assess forage use.

Recreation and Tourism:

Monitor public use of Picklejar Lakes to assess average increase in trail and lakeshore impacts.

Continue backcountry management efforts. Increase user contact and education.

Complete the upgrades/additions at Cataract Creek and West Bragg, as well as:

- RMA A - Kovach Pond - install pond liner;
- RMA C - Elbow River launch to be completed; and
- RMA E - Complete Bear Pond Dam repair and reclamation including debris burning, slope revegetation, recontouring the hiking trail up to the lake from the parking lot, and revegetating of bare areas.

Timber:

Continue harvesting operations in B07006 (Cox Hill); Volume 50 000 m³.

Complete B7-L4 (Powderface) annual operating plan.

Continue monitoring program for mountain pine beetle.

Transportation:

Continue to monitor and control avalanche hazards which threaten public roadways.

Staff at Kananaskis Country will place locking gates at top and bottom of Canmore Hill as temporary closures for public safety. This is to be done in conjunction with Alberta Transportation and Utilities.

Set up emergency travel procedures and guidelines on the Canmore Hill for appropriate agencies (i.e., RCMP, Trans-Alta, Fish and Wildlife Division, and Department of Transportation and Utilities). These procedures will be formulated and presented to

participating agencies by Recreation and Parks snow study and avalanche control personnel.

Participate in an active reporting role with the Canadian Avalanche Association. This is the industry network for forecasting changes in snow stability, avalanche control and public safety.

Reclamation:

In conjunction with Alberta Environment, reclaim the gypsum mine road in PLPP and up to six other sites.

Wildlife:

Complete brush pile burning in Wind Creek valley.

Complete prescribed burn on lower portion of Mist Creek to enhance elk range.

Complete prescribed burn on Sheep River to enhance sheep habitat.

Continue monitoring of Highwood elk populations.

Continue assisting the University of Calgary with the bighorn sheep study in the Sheep River area.

Monitor movement of elk collared in Bow Corridor.

Monitor effectiveness of Highwood Road Corridor Sanctuary after it is established.

Plan Assessment:

The Kananaskis Country Sub-Regional IRP will undergo its five-year assessment by the Eastern Slopes Regional Resource Management Committee, Kananaskis Country Interdepartmental Committee and the Resource Planning Branch.

4.4 Nordegg-Red Deer River Sub-Regional Integrated Resource Plan (Approved March 4, 1986)

1990/91 Activities:

Wildlife:

Surveys of elk winter ranges were completed; the trend of gradual increases in numbers is continuing.

Mountain goat ranges within the planning area were surveyed. A total of 207 mountain goats were counted, but numbers in the kid and yearling groups were very poor suggesting poor reproductive success. The Cline River population appears to have declined, while that on the front range has doubled.

Wildlife sanctuaries along road corridors were established in a number of locations throughout the planning area.

Road reclamation on Bighorn Creek was completed.

The Washout Creek prescribed burn was conducted successfully.

The South Idlewild site was mechanically treated to disperse windrows. Burning is planned for spring 1991.

The Forty Mile Flats project has been adopted by the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. The range improvement project to clear 160 ha of bog birch did not proceed this year due to mild weather in late winter.

Fisheries:

The following stocking program was completed:

Phyllis Lake	-	11 000	brown trout
Allstones Lake	-	1 500	brook trout
Peppers Lake	-	14 000	brook trout
Job Lake	-	10 000	cutthroat trout
Landslide Lake	-	13 000	cutthroat trout
Eagle Lake	-	7 500	cutthroat trout
Ice Lake	-	500	cutthroat trout

The cutthroat trout population at Job Lake was assessed, and it appears that the spawning population continues to decline in number.

Cutthroat trout populations in Onion and Canary creeks were monitored to determine if size-limit angling restrictions are having any effect on the population. This work has not yet been completed.

Bank stabilization and channel narrowing were conducted on the outlet of Job Lake. In addition, sediment was flushed from spawning gravels in the same area to try and improve spawning success.

Buck for Wildlife fencing on two sections of Beaver Creek was removed as a result of eliminating this creek as a backup water source for the Raven Brood Trout Station.

Recreation:

There were 10 commercial trail riding permits issued within the integrated resource planning area. All were inspected to ensure the operation was satisfactory.

A draft plan for Phyllis Lake is awaiting approval. Formal upgrading of Crescent Falls and Phyllis Lake recreation areas was delayed pending budget approval.

A formal agreement for compensation on the abandonment of Dry Haven Recreation Area for gravel crushing by Alberta Transportation and Utilities has been reached. Recreation facilities have not yet been removed and the reservation covering the recreation area has not been cancelled.

Development of draft plans for Allstones Lake, Landslide Lake and Pinto Lake trail staging areas is still continuing.

Tourism:

The following applications were submitted and reviewed:

- A guest ranch (not yet approved through the CTRL process);
- White Goat Mountain Lodge (Stage III of the CTRL Process); and
- Explorer's Mountain Park Association (application cancelled).

Ecological and Historical Resources:

A biophysical analysis of the Goldeye Lake ESA was completed. Final boundary has not been determined.

Scalp Creek Natural area was established by Order In Council 327/90.

Bentz Lake Natural Area was maintained under a Protective Notation.

Eagle Creek was maintained under a protective notation.

LSDs 11 & 12 of 22 and NE 22-33-6-W5 remained under Consultative Notation pending field evaluations.

Timber:

Spruce budworm survey on 243 ha in RMA A and B was completed and conditions showed improvement. Spruce budworm survey undertaken in the Red Deer River valley by Forestry Canada and the Alberta Forest Service showed medium to heavy infestations in 11-34-4-W5M, with light or no infestations elsewhere. Bruce spanworm defoliation was monitored in RMA C. Pine needle cast surveys were conducted in the Burnstick Lake/Raven River and McCue Creek areas. Root collar weevil was also identified.

The transfer of part of Section 5 and Section 06-032-06-W5 from White Area to Green Area has not occurred. If this change does not occur the Green Area boundary shown on the plan should be changed at the five-year review.

Range and Agricultural Resources:

Five applications for range improvement were received, which involved regrowth control, cross fencing, culvert installation and field clearing.

Resource management operational plans have been completed and implemented for 17 grazing dispositions in the White Area portion of RMA C (Calgary District). Resource Management Plans are in the draft stage for the remaining 17 grazing dispositions.

Continued preparation of range management plans which will direct use of grazing dispositions in the planning area. Draft plans have been developed for the following dispositions: Fall Creek Allotment, GRL 39696 and GRP 787427.

The following range management plans have been finalized and will be implemented by June 1991: Limestone Allotment and GRL 37831. North Raven was finalized and implemented in June 1990. GRL 37082 range management plan is to be finalized by June, but assignment of the grazing lease to a new lessee has delayed plan development.

Range assessments were completed for the duration of grazing on the forest reserve in Bow/Crow.

Mineral Resources:

The Caroline Gas Development Project was reviewed and continues to progress.

Reclamation:

Funding to complete reclamation projects identified for Alberta Heritage Savings and Trust Fund (AHSTF) was received for 1991/92. This includes the 12th level Nordegg strip mine, the north slope mine tippie north of Nordegg and an old logging road in Sec. 31 and 32, Twp. 40, Rge. 15, W5M.

Other Ongoing Planning Exercises in Addition to this IRP:

The David Thompson Corridor Local Integrated Resource Plan, which follows the David Thompson Highway #11, was reviewed by the public and endorsed by the Eastern Slopes RRMC. The final plan is now awaiting cabinet approval.

Anticipated Activities (1991/92) Nordegg-Red Deer River Sub-Regional IRP

Wildlife:

Conduct elk population surveys on winter ranges.

Assistance will be provided to the Alberta Bird Atlas Project to complete surveys of breeding birds in the subalpine areas.

The Blackstone Wapiabi burn project is planned for implementation.

The South Ram Headwaters burn is planned for fall of 1991.

Brush piles on Ribbon Flats will be disposed of by burning.

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation will implement the Forty Mile/Lost Guide Flats project during the winter of 1991/92.

Complete a prescribed burn (under chinook conditions) in Bighorn Creek area for elk habitat improvement (approximately 26.7 ha).

Fisheries:

The following stocking program is planned:

Brown trout	-	Yellowhead Lake	12 400
	-	Phyllis Lake	11 000
	-	Birch Lake	15 000
Brook trout	-	Dormer Lake	1 000
	-	Peppers Lake	14 000
Rainbow trout	-	Harlech Pond	500
	-	Nordegg Ponds	700
	-	Elk Creek Pond	500
	-	Alford Lake	3 000
	-	Goldeye Lake	10 000
	-	Fish Lake	15 000
	-	Job Lake	10 000
Cutthroat trout	-	Entry Lake	500
	-	Bighorn River	10 000
Walleye	-	Burnstick Lake	15 000

Conduct assessment of Gap Lake to determine if stocking is required.

Conduct an assessment of the Bighorn River to determine if cutthroat stocking was successful.

Continue monitoring the status of the cutthroat trout population at Job Lake.

Continue to evaluate the effectiveness of the angling size-limit regulations introduced in 1987.

Evaluate the bull trout population in Lake of the Falls, Elk Creek, Cutoff Creek and Rocky Creek.

Monitor the cutthroat trout population in the North Ram River to determine what effects the catch-and-release regulations are having on the trout population.

Recreation Areas:

Complete the recreation plan and design for Eagle Creek.

Commence Red Deer River Corridor Recreation Plan (RMAs A, B and C).

Continue development of draft plans for hiking/equestrian staging areas for Landslide Lake and Pinto Lake.

Development of a formal trail staging area will be completed for Allstones Lake.

Development of staging areas at the Wapiabi and Blackstone Gaps will not occur until staging areas are completed in the Highway #11 corridor.

Continue to monitor visitor use levels in developed recreation areas and at random sites.

Continue periodic backcountry patrols.

Tourism:

Maintain information requirements and referral procedures as outlined by the Commercial Tourism and Recreation Leasing (CTRL) process to ensure that any proposed development is compatible with the intent of the IRP and other resource uses.

Ecological and Historical Resources:

If workloads permit, commence development of a management plan for the Kootenay Plains Ecological Reserve.

Prepare management plans for Natural Areas (e.g., Scalp Creek) subject to provincial priorities and as time permits.

Timber:

Monitor for insects and disease (including spruce budworm along Red Deer River), and establish sample plots/complete juvenile stem count to monitor pine needle cast infestations.

Finalize decision regarding the relocation of Burnstick Lookout Tower.

A forest management plan will be developed in conjunction with Fish and Wildlife Division if RMA L is considered for harvesting.

Continue negotiations with Sunpine Forest Products Ltd. towards finalizing their forest management agreement.

Range and Agricultural Resources:

Resource management operational plans will be completed and implemented for the remaining 17 grazing dispositions in the White Area portion of RMA C (Calgary district).

Management plans will be initiated for GRL 38258 and GRL 38036 in RMA D.

Inventory free-roaming horses and assess forage use.

Assess range ability to maintain specified grazing levels.

Access:

An industrial access management plan will be required in RMA L should one or more operators become active in the area.

Plan Assessment:

The Nordegg-Red Deer River Sub-Regional IRP will undergo its five-year assessment by the Eastern Slopes Regional Resource Management Committee and the Resource Planning Branch.

4.5 Rocky-North Saskatchewan Sub-Regional Integrated Resource Plan (Approved November 18, 1986)

1990/91 Activities:

Watershed:

Two predisturbance watershed assessments were completed.

Timber:

Revision to the forest protection area boundary in the eastern portions of Rose Creek RMA were completed.

Monitoring for insect and disease infestations is ongoing. The area of needle cast in Prairie Creek RMA was inspected and samples were analyzed to determine cause.

Weyerhaeuser's detailed management plan was submitted and reviewed, and is currently being revised.

The Sunpine FMA is close to having negotiations completed. It is anticipated the agreement will be signed in 1991.

Wildlife:

WMU 330, instead of WMU 324, was surveyed for moose. Preliminary results indicate that although densities are low, bull and calf ratios per 100 cows are favorable at 38 and 56, respectively.

Trapline quotas were not increased because of slow furbearer population recoveries and low pelt prices.

Problem bears were relocated as required, and ungulate damage complaints were addressed. The number of ungulate damage complaints remained higher than pre-1990 levels.

A new system was developed for providing input to seismic referrals, which is helping to standardize conditions applied to programs.

Approximately 50 ha of decadent willow stands were mechanically cleared by the Rimbey Fish and Game Association to enhance browse production.

Approximately 50 ha of decadent willow stands were mechanically cleared by the Hoadley Trappers Association to enhance browse production.

The Rocky Mountain House Fish and Game Association mowed 20 ha of willow stands to enhance browse production.

Fisheries:

An assessment of lake trout spawning was conducted. The study found that the number of mature lake trout involved in the 1990 spawning run was substantially higher than that observed in 1960. Numbers have risen from less than 300 to over 1000 fish. Lake trout were using the artificial spawning reef and deposited over 100 000 eggs on it in 1990. The number of mature brown trout has increased substantially.

Critical spawning sites in Prairie Creek were identified. Suitable spawning sites are limited, and trout have been documented moving up to 27 km to reach those sites.

Angler harvest at Swan Lake declined substantially in 1990, while angling pressure was unchanged. Low angling success rates were attributed to high water levels and elevated turbidity over the summer.

Fish stocking within the planning area was as follows:

Brown trout	-	Cow Creek Beaver Dams	-	10 000
	-	Mud Creek Beaver Dams	-	10 000
	-	Chambers Creek Dams	-	6 000
Brook trout	-	Rat Lake	-	4 000
Rainbow trout	-	Rocky Children's pond, as provided by the Rocky Fish and Game Club	-	250

The rainbow trout population of Twin Lakes was evaluated. After stocking not occurring for two years, no trout were caught in the test nets. The lake now supports a very large white sucker population.

All streambank fences in the planning area were maintained.

Streambank fencing was erected along a quarter section adjacent to Prairie Creek to reduce livestock impacts on the watercourse.

The Cow Lake Stabilization Project was initiated in cooperation with Alberta Environment. A preliminary plan was prepared to examine options. Further engineering and environmental work is required before a decision can be made on construction.

Several environmental investigations were undertaken. The most significant case was a major oil spill in the Buster Creek drainage, which occurred as a result of an Amoco pipeline break. A spill on the Nordegg River was also investigated.

Forage Resource:

The Rocky Mountain House Provincial Grazing Reserve was operated at full capacity. A total of 7 479 animal unit months (AUMs) were used by 55 patrons in 1990. The death losses were 0.63 percent.

Range management plans were drafted on the following dispositions and will be finalized by June 1992: GRL 38276, FGL 810007, GRL 800225, GRL 800251, GRL 38084 and GRL 800250, GRL 39929 and Omni HTP.

Two applications for range improvement were received in the White Area. The improvements applied for included crossfencing, field clearing and water source construction.

A total of 727 ha of vacant land were tendered with four forest grazing licence dispositions being issued in the White Area.

Agricultural Resource:

From the Rose Creek Agricultural Capability Study, the following lands identified for sale were withdrawn from the Green Area in July 1990: E 1/2 24, E 1/2 25, E 1/2 36 and

NW 36-46-8-W5; and E 1/2 1-47-8-W5. The demand has been assessed and the above lands, except for E 1/2 25-46-8-W5, will be tendered for sale.

Ecological and Historical Resources:

The terms of reference were finalized for Alexo Candidate Natural Area. The draft management plan was completed and is awaiting final approval from RRMCC.

A Protective Notation (PNT) for Jackfish Lake ESA was established but the boundary has not been ratified.

A Consultative Notation (CNT) was established for Louis Lake, Prentice Creek and Lochearn Wetlands ESA. No additional fieldwork was completed.

Access:

An abandoned road in NE 23 and S 1/2 26-39-11-W5M was identified for reclamation. Funding has been allocated to complete the project in 1991/92.

Land Use Administration:

The Green/White Area boundary was adjusted in July 1990 to reflect the Rore Creek study area recommendation. The following lands were transferred from the Green Area to the White Area: E 1/2 24, E 1/2 25, E 1/2 36 and NW 36-46-8-W5; and E 1/2 1-47-8-W5.

Other Ongoing Planning Exercises in Addition to this IRP:

The RRMCC endorsed the draft David Thompson Corridor Local Integrated Resource Plan and an open house was held for the public to view the document. The public comments were incorporated and the document was submitted to Cabinet for final endorsement.

Anticipated Activities (1991/92) Rocky-North Saskatchewan Sub-Regional IRP

Wildlife:

Conduct a moose survey in WMU 324 (RMA B).

Continue to address wildlife depredation problems.

Conduct wildlife habitat enhancement projects as identified over the next year.

Fisheries:

Conduct a fry emergence study on the spawning reef at Swan Lake.

Continue the creel survey at Swan Lake.

Remove white suckers from Twin Lakes to improve the rainbow trout fishery.

Stocking will include:

Rainbow trout	-	Struble Lake	19 000
	-	Harlech Pond	500
	-	Unnamed (30-42-4-W5)	200
Brown trout	-	Grace Creek Dams	3 000

Assess the Baptiste River to determine if brown trout stocking was successful.

Continue maintenance of all streambank fences.

Construct additional fences to protect Vetch Creek from livestock damage.

The Cow Lake Stabilization Project will continue with the possibility of construction occurring during the winter of 1991/92.

Forage Resource:

Several range management plans will be completed and implemented in 1991. Their status is as follows:

GRL 34501, GRL 40286, GRL 800698, GRL 40502, GRL 40272, GRL 780044, GRL 40750, GRL 36488 - to be completed and implemented by June 1991;

GRL 34501 - completed; and

GRL 38690 - to be completed by September 1991.

Maintain the present level of stocking in the Rocky Mountain House Provincial Grazing Reserve and keep the livestock mortality rate below 1 percent.

For the Rose Creek-Red Deer River RMA, the following grazing dispositions will be reviewed (range inventory) and range management plans developed by June 1993: GRL 36486 and GRL 37749.

For the North Saskatchewan RMA, the following grazing dispositions will be reviewed (range inventory) and range management plans developed by June 1993: GRL 37902, GRL 810778, GRL 810777, GRL 38240, and FGL 890009.

For the Prairie Creek RMA, the following grazing disposition will be reviewed (range inventory) and a range management plan developed by June 1993: GRL 39488.

For the Nordegg-Baptise RMA, the Holbrook range management plan was implemented in 1984. Range inventory of allotment to occur in 1991 and new range management plan to be drafted in 1992.

Continue to evaluate vacant public land for grazing disposition suitability.

Conduct a vegetation inventory on FGL 900021, FGL 900019, FGL 900020 and GRL 890092 to monitor species change over the next several years.

Monitor forage production on GRL 38145, GRL 39798, GRL 37812, GRL 39926 and GRL 39735 by using production cage structures.

Conduct Canada thistle control projects on GRL 810575 and GRL 40547.

Agricultural Resources:

Complete sale tender of those sections identified in the Rose Creek Agricultural Capability Study during the summer of 1991.

Tourism:

Funding of approved Community Tourism Action Program (CTAP) projects through Alberta Tourism as recommended by the local Tourism Action Committee.

Maintain information and referral procedures as outlined by the Commercial Tourism and Recreation Leasing process to ensure that any proposed development is compatible with the intent of the IRP and other resource uses.

Plan Assessment:

The Rocky-North Saskatchewan Sub-Regional IRP will undergo its five-year assessment by the Eastern Slopes Regional Resource Management Committee and the Resource Planning Branch.

5.0 SUMMARY

The preceding information is intended to provide an account of what has been accomplished in the Brazeau-Pembina, Ghost River, Kananaskis Country, Nordegg-Red Deer River and Rocky-North Saskatchewan Sub-Regional Integrated Resource Planning Areas between April 1990 and March 1991.

If you have any comments relating to this report, or if you require more detailed information on specific programs undertaken in the areas mentioned, please direct them to:

Regional Resource Coordinator
Regional Coordination Services
P.O. Box 1598
Provincial Building, 1st Floor
4919 - 51 Street
Rocky Mountain House, AB.
TOM 1T0

The courier address to be used to forward comments from provincial government departments is:

Regional Resource Coordinator
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